



Mosaic Art Studio displays their work at Flora Market

Flora Market proves this week that one does not necessarily need to visit only art galleries in Aruba to view and purchase some beautiful art. The remarkable, beautiful and practical work of the classes of the Mosaic Art Studio, run by Omaira Silva are now on display until Wednesday, as a collection, and some will continue to be offered for sale on a regular basis.

Omaira, originally from Aruba, spent the years 1999 to 2003 in Holland and Europe. During that time, while touring many of the great museums, landmark structures and royal homes, she became fascinated with the ancient art of mosaic inlay, and studied it intensely. She returned to Aruba in 2004, after a stopover in Trinidad and Tobago, where she obtained a great deal of information on the art, and then opened her own studio. Not only does Omaira produce some beautiful work of her own, but also she began giving classes, and the results are well worth a trip to Flora Market to admire.

The first exposition of mosaic work ever displayed in Aruba opened this past Sunday and will continue through Wednesday. Diverse objects, including “magic balls” are amongst the various projects Omaira and her students have presented, each as unique as the artist that created it.

During Sunday’s opening, Omaira and student Jean-Marie Falcon provided a living demonstration of the process, using broken tiles and small colored stones. Omaira explained that she now haunts construction sites, obtaining leftover and unneeded tiles to smash and use for these projects. Linda Schnog displayed her “magic ball,” which was made with tiny ceramic tiles and mirrors she brought back with her from Thailand. Her grandson Bradley, amongst others, was also quite taken with her lovely flowerpot. There are no age limits to creativity, as proven by young Shazia Luidens, who proudly displayed her mosaic mirror. Artist and musician Mo Mohammad and his group “Sonfaya” added the perfect primitive musical touch to complement to this modern interpretation of a prehistoric art.

The concept of “practical art,” creating work that is useful as well as beautiful, is often ignored by most island galleries, and a greater display of this sort of work would be welcome. The exposition by the Mosaic Art Studio at Flora Market is delightfully refreshing in the seeming simplicity of the work, yet offers ways to beautify more than just the walls of one’s home, creating a very individual statement. Omaira also offers the would-be decorator the opportunity to create the pot, mirror, or plate they have been looking for to perfectly complement their home decor. Projects can go beyond the three basic items, as some of the students showed with their creative tables. Participating students along with Omaira were Tinneke Kosteljik, Helma Ligthart, Judy Carvalhal, Kavitia Daryanani, Brigitte Hehagnoul, Truss Baars, Mary van Caem, Jan Oduber, Carol Habibe, Linda Schnog, Samantha Silva, Linda Bakker, Shazia Luidens, Jillian Oduber and Joa Beke. Some of the artists were available to discuss their work, and most did provide a treatise on their motivation and experience along with the display.

Omaira is offering classes in mosaic art once a week, on every Wednesday. Three-hour classes are conducted in the morning, afternoon and evening. They include all materials to produce a pot, a mirror, and a plate by the end of a six-week period, and cost 150 Aruban florins. Larger projects, such as tables can be arranged through private sessions. For more information and registration, call Omaira Silva at telephone number 582-2450.